

LITERATURE.

REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

From E. H. Butler & Co. we have received "Mitchell's Modern Atlas," with an index containing over 17,000 names, compiled by H. D. Gregory, A. M. This index, which is published both with and separate from the atlas, appears, from such examination as we have been able to give it, to be very complete, and it will undoubtedly be a very valuable assistant to the student of geography, as well as to all others who may have occasion to make geographical references. It has been brought down to the latest dates, and the inexpensive shape in which it is published entitles it to the favorable consideration of all who may desire to use such a work, as it will be an easy matter to replace it by a new and improved copy, when the rapid changes that are taking place, especially in our Western territory, render portions of it somewhat out of date.

Part No. 53 of "Zell's Popular Encyclopedia" brings the work down to the title "Standard." A few more numbers will complete this valuable publication.

From the American Sunday School Union we have received the January number of "The Sunday at Home," an English magazine, which contains stories, essays, and poetry suitable for Sunday reading, from the pens of some of the best writers of the day. The illustrations are numerous and excellent.

From J. B. Lippincott & Co. we have received "Birth and Education," translated from the Swedish of Marie Sophie Schwartz by Selma Leug and Marie A. Brown. Published by Lee & Shepard. This story, like its predecessor, "Gold and Name," possesses much dramatic interest. Unfortunately the ladies who have undertaken to introduce the writings of Madame Schwartz to the American public are not qualified for the work, and the translations of the two novels which have come under our notice are very badly executed.

From Morris Frank, No. 619 Walnut street, we have received the January number of "The Technologist," which contains a number of valuable articles on industrial subjects.

In "The Art Review" for January, we find several interesting papers on art subjects.

From W. S. Turner we have received "Appleton's Journal and Every Saturday."

The Central News Company, No. 505 Chesnut street, sends us the latest numbers of "Punch and Fun."

THE FEBRUARY MAGAZINES.

"THE GALAXY." The contents of the February number of "The Galaxy" are as follows:—

"Lady Judith. A Tale of Two Continents," chapters xiii, xiv, and xv, by Justin McCarthy; "The Nether Side of New York. I. Private Detectives," by Edward Grapsy; "Madame Vigeo Le Brun," by J. Durand; "Overland," chaps. xxv, xxvi, and xxvii, by J. W. De Forest; "Successful People," by Titus Munson; "My Avenger," by Lucy H. Hooper; "Souvenir of Imperial Sovereigns," by Don Piatt; "Mr. Lincoln and Three Friends in Council," a chapter from the Autobiography of Thurlow Weed, by Thurlow Weed; "Mr. Black to Mr. Wilson," by J. S. Black; "Council," by M. E. M.; "Vita Vitale," by Robert Weeks; "Ought We to Visit Her?," a Novel, Chapters v, vi, and vii, by Mrs. Edwards; "Life's Answer," by L. B. Moore; "Droitwood," by Philip Quillback; "Scientific Miscellany," "Current Literature," "Memoranda," by Mark Twain; "Nebule," by the Editor.

From Hon. J. S. Black's slashing rejoinder to Hon. Henry Wilson we take the following reference to the why and wherefore of the exit of Mr. Cameron from Lincoln's Cabinet:—

Your account of Mr. Cameron's retirement from the War Department and Stanton's appointment on his suggestion demanded refutation, because it not only perverted and misrepresented a fact of some general importance, but was a serious injury to Mr. Stanton's character as it then stood. Between these two men it did not seem as if there could be any relations which implied confidence or friendship. If Stanton himself was any authority for his own sentiments, he had no respect either for the horse contacts or the "finger arm" (as he called it) of his predecessor, and Mr. Lincoln had no respect for Stanton's appointment to carry out but to put an end to Cameron's policy with all its corruptions. I admit that since the evidence you have furnished of Mr. Stanton's duplicity in other matters, it becomes possible to believe he may have been insincere about this also. Still your attempt to deceive the public was inexcusable.

Of my own knowledge I know nothing about Cameron's appointment or removal; but I will give you the main facts briefly and without the "finger arm" (as I have termed them). A bargain was made at the Chicago Convention of 1860 that in case of Lincoln's nomination and election Cameron should receive a Cabinet appointment. Mr. Lincoln was no party to this contract; but after much persuasion and pressure he consented to ratify it by trying Cameron as Secretary of War. Before the end of nine months the experiment ended, as you know, and as everybody else knows, in a complete and total failure. Mr. Lincoln, seeing this, determined to get rid of him, and expressed his resolution in a letter addressed to Mr. Cameron and carried by Mr. Chase, then Secretary of the Treasury. That letter is not now in existence, but Mr. Chase described it as curt—that is to say, plain, short, and direct. Mr. Cameron understood and felt it as an abrupt dismissal. He afterwards got it suppressed, and a correspondence different in its whole tenor and effect substituted in its place. Ever since then he has been trying to create the opinion that he retired from a department full of rich jobs, not only without compulsion, but in spite of the President's affectionate desire that he should remain and manage them as he had done before; and he makes it a part of his story that he was permitted to designate his successor. He contrived to produce some belief of this on the mind of Mr. Chase; but if Mr. Chase had known more of Cameron's character and previous history, he might have been less credulous.

Of the fact that Stanton was appointed on Cameron's suggestion we have not a spark of direct evidence except Cameron's own statement, and all the circumstances make that improbable. If the President made up his

mind to remove the incumbent he certainly would not have proceeded to execute his resolution by writing him a curt letter of dismissal, without having settled upon somebody to succeed him; for at such a time as that he could not mean to leave the War Department *acephalous* while he would be hunting a head for it. But concede that no thought was taken for the new officer before the removal of the old one, can it be that the President decided the whole question in favor of a man never mentioned before, on the mere suggestion of the officer he was dismissing, and without seeking advice from those members of the Cabinet who still retained his favor? The suppressed letter is, therefore, not only an important fact in itself, but it has the gravest influence on the credibility of Mr. Cameron's whole tale. Other questions signify but little in comparison to that. If the correspondence afterwards published was not that which actually took place, we must presume everything against the party for whom, or at whose instance, the suppression was committed. The short, plain, direct, curt note, with which Mr. Lincoln opened the business would have explained everything if it had been permitted to see the light; and it could not have been destroyed except for the purpose of making a false impression. This compels me to show that your conduct in the affair has been such as admits of no justification except that burning loyalty and intense patriotism which converts all vice into virtue.

After your first article appeared, and before my answer to it, a leading and very distinguished member of the Republican party in this State told you that you had misstated the facts concerning Mr. Cameron's retirement, and especially the important and principal fact of the suppressed note from the President; and he referred to the Chief Justice, who, upon being interrogated, gave you the authentic information that such a note had been written, delivered, and suppressed. Thereupon you solemnly promised that if you ever had occasion to refer to the subject again, you would tell the whole truth. Besides, Judge Chase, after my review of you, wrote me a letter from Sandusky, Ohio, in which he said that he bore the note in question, and mentioned that he had also written to you. What he wrote you of course I do not know, but he certainly did not give you one version and me another. You had, therefore, the written statement of the Chief Justice, in addition to his verbal assurance. With all these lights before you, and with all the obligations of common veracity strengthened by an express promise to tell the truth, what do you do in your second article? Why, you simply stick to your first story. Nay, you take great trouble to smuggle the truth away, and bury it out of sight; for, instead of producing Judge Chase's letter to yourself, in which the fact, no doubt, is fairly stated, you give us an extract from another letter written by him to Cameron, from which you are "permitted to quote"—nothing whatever on the subject of that important letter. I forbear to say much that ought to be said about this part of your behavior, because the distinguished gentleman before spoken of has taken you in hand, and will doubtless jerk an acknowledgment of the facts out of you, in spite of all your shuffling.

"SCRIBNER'S MONTHLY."

The February number of *Scribner's Monthly* has the following list of articles:—

"The New York Mercantile Library," illustrated, by John B. G. Hassard; "The French Conquest of Louisiana and Alaska," illustrated, by Henry M. Baird; "A Tartar Love-Song," by R. H. Stoddard; "The Story of a Valentine," by Edward Eggleston; "Lauriger," by Charles F. Gage; "Something About Balloons," illustrated, by F. R. Thompson; "Lucky Peer," illustrated, by Hans Christian Andersen; "The Haunted Ship," by an Old Tar; "Madeline," by Alice Cary; "Weather-Telegrams and Storm-Forecasts," illustrated, by Professor P. B. Maury; "Conference Wrong Side Out," by Gail Hamilton; "Wilfred Cumberland," chapters xiii, xiv, by George MacDonald; "The Bondage of the Palpit," second article, by W. C. Wilkinson; "Angelique Arnauld," by Elizabeth Sill; "Topics of the Time," "The Old Cabinet," "Home and Society," "Books and Authors at Home," "Etchings," "To-morrow is St. Valentine's Day," by Addie Ledyard.

The readers of this magazine must have already recognized as one of its most attractive features the story of "Wilfred Cumberland," by George MacDonald. This writer has already taken a front place in the ranks of living novelists, and there are few among his compeers who better deserve an extended popularity. MacDonald is essentially a poet, and it is the glamour of poetry pervading his writings that constitutes their principal charm. The story of "Wilfred Cumberland," so far as it has progressed, impresses us as one of the best, if not the best, that has yet proceeded from his pen, and we hope that its serial publication in *Scribner's Monthly* will have the effect of making a large number of readers acquainted with the merits of certainly the most original fiction-writer of the day. The other contributions in the number of the magazine before us present an entertaining variety of reading matter.

From "Something about Balloons," by J. R. Thompson, we take this description of the first balloon voyage:—

But the time had now come for the first aerial voyage, and this was magnificently performed by the intrepid Roziers, who had zealously taken up the subject of aërostation from the earliest announcement of Montgolfier's success, and the Marquis d'Arlandes, a fine gentleman of the Court, who wrote an interesting account of the perilous and unprecedented trip. The balloon of the Marquis, which was inflated with heated air, and not with hydrogen gas, far exceeded our modern balloons in magnificence of decoration and elegance of equipment, and must have presented a splendid appearance as it rose above the temples and columns of Paris in the lovely October sunset. It made the entire circuit of the capital, passing over the boulevards and hovering always in sight of the vast crowds of wonder-loving Parisians, now fairly intoxicated by the brilliant spectacle. There were eyes that marked its course with other feelings than gratified curiosity or unreasoning delight. Among the faces turned upward to the sky above Paris on that 21st of October, 1783, was Benjamin Franklin's. Henceforward for many months all France, so soon to become convulsed in revolution, went wild upon the subject of balloons. Ascensions were made in every part of the kingdom, and hundreds of people of both sexes earnestly begged a seat in the car. It was doubted only by the judicious few that the navigation of the air was unprofitable, or that men might go where they pleased with the speed of the wind. The Duc de Chartres, afterwards Orleans and the notori-

ous Egalite, was so unfortunate as to make a journey of one hundred and thirty-five miles by writing him a curt letter of dismissal, thus escaping the best chance that ever happened to him of saving his name from imperishable dishonor. Great care and expense were lavished upon the construction of balloons, and no improvement has since been effected in them.

It was to be expected that among a people with so keen a sense of the ludicrous as the French, the new discovery should be made the object of pillory burlesque and caricature. All manner of absurd flying-machines were represented in colored prints, and all sorts of ridiculous schemes were put forth in satirical prospectuses. But the irony and caricature could not exceed in the comic element the essays that were written and the plans that were set forth in sober earnest. Moralists gravely condemned the employment of balloons, because they were manifestly contrary to the will of Divine Providence, which had not given wings to man; because they threatened to break down the barriers of virtue and morality, by permitting aeronauts to descend at night into gardens and balconies, and because they practically annulled the boundaries of empire, and thus seemed likely to involve nations in continual war. This was dread enough, but the novelties in aerial architecture sanguinely proposed to the public were more mirth-provoking still. One cannot look at an engraving of the "Minerva" without a smile. The "Minerva" was a machine for navigating the air, projected by one Robertson, of Vienna, in 1801, and dedicated to Voltaire, probably that it might come to be considered as a sort of "Voltaire pile." A pile it certainly appears of a balloon, a Fulton ferry boat, a toy-shop, a ten-pin alley, a travelling circus, and a lager beer saloon, as complex in its construction and as diverse in its aims as the new grand patent double-action cylindrical marling-spike, with holystoning watering-pot attachments, and self-adjusting reversible Kamptulion deck Airplane Carpet. The amiable Robertson proposed to convey sixty persons in the "Minerva," which was to have a capacity of carrying 150,000 pounds, and thought it might be possible to make with it the tour of the world. In the serious description he gave of it, which is funnier than Mark Twain's explanation of his map of Paris, he refers to a gymnasium, a theatre, an observatory, a study, and other apartments, not absolutely essential to aeronautic voyages, besides kitchens, closets, and store-rooms, any one of which adjuncts it would be about as easy to transport through the air as the Chapel of Our Lady of Loretto.

The February number of *Godey's Lady's Book* is finely illustrated, and is filled with interesting literary matter in prose and verse.

The *Transatlantic* for February, which we have received from Turner & Co., contains a pleasant variety of short stories and sketches selected from the best English periodicals.

The *Lady's Friend* for January contains a number of excellent illustrations and an attractive list of stories, sketches, poetry, and fashion articles.

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